



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ +31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

**Europäisches
Patentamt**

Zweigstelle
in Den Haag
Recherchen-
abteilung

**European
Patent Office**

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

**Office européen
des brev ts**

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Barz, Peter, Dr.
Patentanwalt
Kaiserplatz 2
80803 München
ALLEMAGNE

18. Feb. 2002

Datum/Date

19.02.02

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

EPP01-268

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

01126106.2-2204-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ricoh Company, Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: NONE

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 3 736 134 A (D W GOSSELINK) 29 May 1973 (1973-05-29) * column 3, line 66 - column 4, line 57; claims 1-17; examples 15-38 * ---	1-4,6,7, 9,10,18, 26,30,32	G03G5/05 G03G5/147
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199241 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A04, AN 1992-336267 XP002189126 & JP 04 240656 A (MATSUSHITA), 27 August 1992 (1992-08-27) * abstract * ---	1-7,9, 13,26, 30,32	
X	US 4 820 620 A (D J CAROLLA) 11 April 1989 (1989-04-11) * column 3, line 33 - column 4, line 14; claims 1,2 * * column 5, line 41 - line 52; examples 3-7,12-24 * ---	1,2,4,6, 7,9,10, 26,30,32	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 655 654 A (FUJI ELECTRONIC) 31 May 1995 (1995-05-31) * page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 39; claims 1,2,4-7,9; figure 1 * -----	1-7,9, 10,19, 20,22, 23,30,32	G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 February 2002	Examiner Vanhecke, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 12 6106

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

04-02-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 3736134	A	29-05-1973	AT	318390 B	10-10-1974
			AU	3450971 A	19-04-1973
			CA	944205 A1	26-03-1974
			CH	586409 A5	31-03-1977
			DE	2151690 A1	20-04-1972
			FR	2111302 A5	02-06-1972
			GB	1344679 A	23-01-1974
			IT	944745 B	20-04-1973
			JP	51049213 B	25-12-1976
			NL	7113612 A ,B,	18-04-1972
ZA	7106849 A	28-06-1972			
<hr/>					
JP 4240656	A	27-08-1992	NONE		
<hr/>					
US 4820620	A	11-04-1989	NONE		
<hr/>					
EP 655654	A	31-05-1995	JP	7146564 A	06-06-1995
			CA	2136396 A1	25-05-1995
			CN	1113015 A	06-12-1995
			EP	0655654 A1	31-05-1995
			US	5456989 A	10-10-1995
<hr/>					